

MARINE INFORMATION**NEW EDITION OF FLEET GUIDES**

Pub. 940, Fleet Guide Atlantic, Third Edition, 2001 is ready for issue to the Department of Defense (DoD), qualified DoD contractors and U.S. Government Agencies supporting DoD functions only. This Fleet Guide includes all Fleet Guide Atlantic Chapters published in one book.

CHANGE TO NAVTEX FORECAST BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Beginning on or about January 2, 2002, mariners will notice a slight change in the NAVTEX forecast issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). The NAVTEX system is one component of marine safety messages broadcast by the the U.S. Coast Guard under the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention.

Because NAVTEX stations share one common radio frequency, 518 kHz, with broadcasts originating at several locations along one coast, strict time limits have been set on the individual broadcasts to prevent mutual interference. In an attempt to adhere to these time limits, the weather forecasts broadcast over NAVTEX will be restricted to 48 hours. The generalized outlook extending to 96 hours will no longer be included. The minimum international requirement for NAVTEX is the broadcast of Gale or Storm Warnings whenever they are issued. The U.S. will continue to exceed this minimum.

To insure that mariners relying on NAVTEX will be aware of the most severe weather in the 48 to 96 hour time frame, headlines announcing the possibility of such events will be added to the beginning of the product. Also, alternative broadcast sources, such as radiofax and HF and MF radio, will still provide forecasts for the offshore area.

For additional information, contact Robert Jacobson, 301-713-1677 extension 108, or Tim Rulon at extention 128.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD NAVIGATION INFORMATION SERVICE

The United States Coast Guard Navigation Information Service (NIS), operated by the USCG Navigation Center, provides information for all radionavigation systems. The NIS is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing information on the current operational status, effective policies, and general information for GPS, DGPS, and LORAN-C. The NIS also disseminates Safety Broadcasts (BNM), Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) and the latest Notice Advisory to Navstar Users (NANU). NANU notices can also be obtained via e-mail subscription through the USCG Navigation Center website (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/gps/default.htm>). In addition, the NIS investigates all reports of degraded or loss of GPS, DGPS or LORAN-C service. Mariners are encouraged to report all degradation of radionavigation services to the NIS via any of the following: Phone: 703-313-5900, Email: webmaster@navcen.uscg.mil, or on the World Wide Web at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov>.